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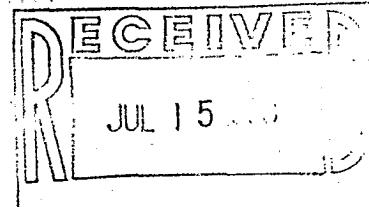
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July 12, 1993

The Council for Tobacco Research
900 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Sir/Madam:

I would like to explore the possibility of applying for the research grant that you are generously providing. I am currently an assistant Professor at New York University Medical Center and the principle investigator of a newly established laboratory with six members. My primary research interest is in the molecular mechanisms governing cell proliferation and differentiation. We study a family of transcription factors that are important for the differentiation of various cell types such as B lymphoid, muscle and neuronal cells. We have also isolated cDNAs coding for the inhibitors for this family of transcription factors, the Id proteins, and are determining the role of these inhibitors at different stages of development. Recent evidence suggests that these inhibitors, which are known to inhibit cell differentiation, may also have a role in promoting cell proliferation. The proposal that I will submit to you includes experiments designed to understand the role of the inhibitors in cell proliferation as well as differentiation. We intend to identify any new targets for the Id inhibitors and determine the function of these identified proteins. We have recently begun to search for such proteins and have isolated several cDNA clones, which encode unknown proteins that interact with the inhibitors. Further characterization of these proteins and identification of additional target proteins will greatly facilitate our understanding of the role of Id proteins and the process of cell proliferation and differentiation. This knowledge will undoubtedly provide an explanation of cancer formation.

If my research projects are of interest to you, I would appreciate your sending me instructions for application.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Xiao-Hong Sun, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Encl. curriculum vitae